(a) whether it is a fact that J&K is one of the States where there is no significant presence of heavy industnes even after decades of independence;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have carried out any study to ascertain the suitability of climatic conditions and availability of natural raw material for heavy industries such as wrist watches in the State;

(d) if so, details thereof, and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to establish heavy industries in the State of J&K?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN) (a) to (e) The Government has not carried out any study in the recent past regarding suitability of heavy industries in Jammu & Kashmir One company *i.e.* HMT Chinar Watches has been established in Jammu & Kashmir in 1972 At the time of establishment of the unit, a pre-feasibility study was carried out by HMT

The Government (Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion) has announced a package of incentives for development of industries in the State of Jammu & Kashmir on 14 06 2002 Under the package various concessions have been allowed to industrial units in the State which include development of industrial infrastructure, excise and income-tax exemption and Subsidy Schemes like Central Capital Investment Subsidy, Central Interest Subsidy and Central Comprehensive Insurance Scheme

Implementation of IT-based Information dissemination Plan in Tea Industry

1564 SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has implemented IT-based Information Dissemination Plan for the tea industry, including conversion of manual auction into electronic auction;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Based on the Medium Term Export Strategy, an IT based information dissemination plan has been implemented for the tea industry which provides for disseminating the information to various stakeholders including growers, manufacturers, buyers, exporters, brokers and officials. The Tea Board has accordingly setup a new internet based portal called www.indiateaportal.com which has 28 identified categories of information, including statistics, news, articles, weather directories etc. The new portal has an auction engine built into it and the same is being used for progressively converting the manual auction centres into electronic auction centres. The infrastructure for conducting electronic auctions, including hardware, software and VSAT connectivity has so far been set up at Coimbatore, Guwahati, Cochin and Coonoor.

(c) Does not arise

Effect of Climate on Production of Tea, Coffee and Cotton

1565. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR:

SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of tea, coffee and cotton has been affected by climatic reasons in different parts of the country;

(b) the quantity of tea, coffee and cotton grown during the year 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05;

(c) the number of gardens and factories connected with these commodities that have closed down during the the last three years; and

(d) the steps Government proposed take to boost up growers, workers and the system of marketing of these commodities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Tea production was affected during 2004-05 due to adverse climatic condition and there was an overall decline of about 31 million kgs. over the previous year. As far as coffee is concerned, due to adverse weather conditions experienced in the last two-three crop years, the production has fallen to 2.75 lakh tonnes in 2002-03 and 2.70 lakh tonnes in 2003-04 from the level of 3 lakh tonnes in 2000-01 and 2001-02. As per available information, production of cotton does not seem to have been affected during 2003-04 and 2004-05.